Adulteration in dairy and food products

*35. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken notice of the recurrent reports of the massive adulteration in dairy and food products in various cities;

(b) whether Government have assessed the lacunae in existing rules and district level executing agencies;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to firm up the execution of existing rules against adulteration; and

(d) whether Government are considering to update the existing measures against food adulteration; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) As per information provided by the State Food (Health) Authorities who are responsible for the implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 and Rules in their respective States/UTs, the percentage of adulteration in samples of various food articles have been on the decline from 11.79% in 2001 to 9.57% in 2005. Of these samples, the average percentage of adulteration detected in dairy products is also found to be declining *i.e.* 23.78% (2003), 21.77% (2004) and 20.68% (2005) whereas the percentage of adulteration for other food products during this period was 8.79% (2003), 7.58% (2004) and 7.88% (2005) respectively.

Food (Health) Authorities in the States/UTs/Local bodies who implement the Act, have constraints like shortage of Food Inspectors due to retirements etc., inadequate budgetary provisions as well as increasing requirements of trained manpower, sophisticated equipments, and reference standard materials in the state testing laboratories.

In order to mitigate these constraints, this Ministry is implementing the World Bank assisted Capacity Building Project in Food and Drugs to strengthen and upgrade the food laboratories, including infrastructure and manpower, provide training to enforcement staff and public analysts, etc.

In order to keep a check on the problem of food adulteration in the country, the Food (Health) authorities are advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil on the quality of food sold in the market by drawing food samples regularly especially of dairy products from all sources *viz.* manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers and to take strict action against the offenders under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954.

The rules made under the PFA Act are reviewed and updated from time to time wherever required. However, with the coming into force of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, the existing legal provisions for food regulation would be reviewed and updated wherever found necessary by the autonomous Food Authority provided for under the Act.

Replacement of bogies

*36. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of 2-AC, 3-AC and sleeper class bogies in various trains proposed to be replaced, if any, by the end of this financial year;

(b) the number of such bogies proposed to be replaced in near future;

(c) whether television/video facilities are proposed to be provided in any of the trains; and

(d) if so, the names of these trains and other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) 34 AC 2-Tier coaches and 337 sleeper class coaches are proposed to be replaced during 2007-08. No AC 3-Tier coach is proposed to be replaced during the year 2007-08.

(b) Number of coaches proposed for replacement during the next 3 years are as under:

Year	Number of coaches proposed to be replaced		
	AC 2-Tier	AC 3-Tier	Sleeper class
2008-09	31	0	187
2009-10	49	0	72
2010-11	31	0	72

(c) and (d) Provision of on board Audio/Video facility for information dissemination and entertainment of passengers has been planned in Executive Chair Cars and Chair Cars of various Shatabdi Express trains as a pilot project.

Model railway stations in Uttar Pradesh

†*37. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the prescribed criteria for selection of a railway station to be developed as a model railway station;

(b) the details of additional facilities to be provided at model railway stations;

(c) the details of railway stations in the country sanctioned for converting them into the model railway station during the last three years; and

(d) the details of the railway stations proposed to be converted into model railway stations in Uttar Pradesh in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) While presenting the Railway Budget 1999-2000, the then Minister of Railways declared that all efforts will be made to make at least one station in each division as model station where higher level of passenger amenities will be provided. Consequent upon the announcement so made, 61 stations were initially selected as model station. Later on, more model stations were added from time to time. Now as per the announcement made during the presentation of Railway Budget 2006-07, all 'A' and 'B' category stations have been selected as model stations.

(b) Model Stations are to be provided with additional amenities depending upon the category of the station such as retiring room, waiting room, public address system/computer based announcement system, electronic train indicator board, public phone booths, water coolers, standardized signage's etc.

(c) 265 stations have been identified for development as model stations during the last three years *i.e.* 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is enclosed as Statement I (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.